

REMARKS:

Claims 3, 6, 13-15, 19, 21, 27, 32-39, 41, 44-47, 49, 51-60, and 63-71 currently are pending in this application, and the Examiner has allowed claims 19, 21, 27, 32-39, 44-47, 51, 57, 59, 60, 66, 67, and 71 in this application. Applicants are canceling claims 3 and 63-65, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, the rejections of claims 3 and 63-65 are rendered moot. Applicants also are amending claims 52-56 to incorporate the limitations of original claim 3. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification.

The Examiner rejects claims 3, 52, 53, 65, and 69 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 2000-133148 to Uchitoi. The Examiner also rejects claims 6 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,952,782 to Nanto *et al.* ("Nanto") in view of Uchitoi, and claims 54, 55, 63, and 64 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,008,582 to Asano *et al.* ("Asano") in view of Uchitoi. Moreover, the Examiner rejects claim 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,742,122 to Amemiya *et al.* ("Amemiya") in view of Uchitoi, and claims 13-15, 41, 49, 58, and 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by Nanto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,582 to Van Slooten. Finally, the Examiner rejects claim 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,057,643 to Kurai in view of Uchitoi. To the extent that these rejections remain applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, as follows.

a. Independent Claims 52-56, 69, and 70

In response to the Office Action mailed July 12, 2004, Applicants have amended independent claims 52-56 to clarify that "said priming particle generating member is formed separate from said phosphor layer and is made up of an ultraviolet region light emissive layer formed of an ultraviolet region light emitting phosphor having persistence characteristics allowing continuous radiation of ultraviolet light **for at least 0.1 msec** as a result of excitation by ultraviolet rays having a predetermined wavelength." Applicants independent claim 69 states that "said priming particle generating member is formed separate from said phosphor layer and is placed on a front face of the partition wall opposing the front substrate and faces the discharge space, and is formed of an ultraviolet region light emissive material or a visible region light emissive material having persistence characteristics allowing emission for **0.1 msec or more**." Moreover, Applicants independent claim 70 states that "said priming particle generating member is formed separate from said phosphor layer and is formed of an ultraviolet region light emissive material or a visible region light emissive material having persistence characteristics allowing emission for **0.1 msec or more**."

The Examiner acknowledges that Uchitai fails to disclose or suggest that the priming particle generating member is formed of an emissive material having persistence characteristics allowing emission for at least 0.1 msec. However, the Examiner asserts that Uchitai discloses an ultraviolet rays emitting phosphor layer 13 formed of magnesium aluminate, and that U.S. Patent No. 6,423,248 to Rao discloses that it is known that magnesium aluminate has persistence characteristics allowing emission for at least 0.1msec. As such, the Examiner asserts that "the structure disclosed by Uchitai inherently allows radiation for 0.1 msec or more." See, e.g., Office Action, Page 5, Lines 3-8. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Specifically, Rao merely discloses an alkaline earth aluminate phosphor having an empirical formula of $(AE_{1-x}Mn_x)0.6(Al_2O_3)$. As clearly shown in **Figure 3** of Rao, the light emitted from the alkaline earth aluminate phosphor described in Rao is in a **green** wavelength band, and as such, is not an ultraviolet region light emissive layer as set forth in independent claims 52-56, 69, and 70. Thus, Rao merely discloses that a layer that is formed of magnesium aluminate may have persistence characteristics allowing light in a green wavelength band to be emitted for at least 0.1 msec. However, because Uchitai includes **ultraviolet** rays emitting phosphor layer 13, and Rao describes a layer allowing light in a **green** wavelength band to be emitted, based on the teachings of Rao, the ultraviolet emitting structure disclosed in Uchitai **does not** "inherently allow radiation for 0.1 msec or more," as asserted by the Examiner. Moreover, there is no motivation to modify Uchitai to include the alkaline earth aluminate phosphor described in Rao because such a modification would result in phosphor layer 13 no longer being an ultraviolet rays emitting layer. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 52-56, 69, and 70.

b. Independent Claim 58

Independent claim 58 describes a plasma display panel “wherein said dielectric layer contains the material, having a coefficient of secondary electron emission **higher** than that of the dielectrics forming said protective dielectric layer, to be formed in combination with said secondary electron emissive layer.” Applicants respectfully submit that neither Nanto nor Van Slooten discloses or suggests this limitation, and in the Office Action, the Examiner does not indicate where Nanto or Van Slooten discloses this limitation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 58.

c. Independent Claim 68

Independent claim 68 describes a plasma display panel comprising “a partition wall disposed between the front substrate and the back substrate and including vertical walls extending **in the column direction** and transverse walls extending **in the row direction**,” i.e., the partition wall has a ladder form, and “an interstice extending in parallel to the row direction and provided **between** the divided transverse walls to space the divided transverse walls from each other,” and “wherein a light absorption layer is provided at a portion of the dielectric layer **opposing said interstice**.” Applicants respectfully submit that neither Nanto nor Van Slooten discloses or suggests the combination of these limitations, and in the Office Action, the Examiner does not indicate where Nanto or Van Slooten discloses the combination of these limitations. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 68.

c. Dependent Claims 6, 13-15, 41 and 49

Each of dependent claims 6, 13-15, 41, and 49 depends from an allowable independent claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 6, 13-15, 41, and 49 at least for this reason.

an interstice provided between the divided transverse walls and at a portion opposing the light absorption layer.

CONCLUSION:

The Applicants respectfully submit that the above-titled patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes that another in-person or telephonic interview with the Applicant's representatives will in any way expedite the examination of the above-titled patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record. Applicants are enclosing a check in the amount of \$110 covering the large entity fee for a one-month extension of time to respond. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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